UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/253
S/21269
24 April 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fifth session
Items 23, 35 and 77 of the
preliminary list*
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS
OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 23 April 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am instructed by the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which has the powers and responsibilities of the Provisional Government of Palestine, to enclose herewith the material issued today, 23 April 1990, by the Heads of the Christian Churches and Communities in Jerusalem for your information and action.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 23, 35 and 77 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. M. Nasser AL-KIDWA
Alternate Permanent Observer
of Palestine to the United Nations

* A/45/50.

ANNEX

Statement of 23 April 1990 issued in Jerusalem by the Heads of the Christian Churches and Communities in Jerusalem

Today, Monday, 23 April 1990, we, the Patriarchs, the Custos, the Heads of the Christian Churches and Communities in Jerusalem, have gathered together to consider our response to the extremely grave events that occurred during Holy Week and their enduring consequences.

In the afternoon of 11 April 1990, Wednesday of Holy Week, 150 settlers, many of them armed men, forcibly occupied St. John's Hospice in the heart of the Christian Quarter of the Old City, a 3,000 square-metre property of the Greek Orthodox Partiarchate.

Their action received support from Israeli authorities. It was financed, at least in great part, by the Government, and there have been visits by government ministers and parliamentary authorities to encourage the settlers. Subsequently, it appears that high-level governmental authorities intervened to restrain the police from carrying out judicial eviction orders.

This action occurred towards the culmination of Holy Week and caused grievous disruption to some of the most solemn rites of the Christian religion, at the holiest shrine of Christendom, the basilica of the Holy Sepulchre Church.

This Government-backed settlers' action continues to provoke almost daily violent incidents in and around the area containing the Holy Sepulchre and the centres of church governance, and has occasioned the provocative presence of numerous armed men in the same restricted area. Consequently, freedom of access to the Holy Sepulchre and freedom of worship within it have been threatened.

This act of armed settlement seriously jeopardizes the integrity, cultural and religious autonomy of the Christian, Armenian and Muslim Quarters, in violation of the centuries-old status and character of these quarters of the Holy City, honoured by all previous rulers of Jerusalem, and the international community (and which the Israeli government authorities have repeatedly pledged themselves to uphold).

This action further endangers the survival of all Christian communities in the Holy City.

We, the Heads of Jerusalem's Christian Churches and Communities, unreservedly condemn the actions of the settlers.

We deplore the open support and encouragement it has received from Israeli government quarters.

We demand that the Israeli authorities effect the immediate removal of these settlers and secure the property for its legitimate owners, the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate.

READEX FICHE

We appeal to the international community, to all churches and religious leaders, and to all people of goodwill throughout the world to give their active support to our call.

We have unanimously decided that:

(a) On Friday, 27 April, all Christian Holy Places in Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem and elsewhere in the Holy Land, will close their doors as of 9 a.m. and will not reopen until the following day.

(b) On the same day, all church bells throughout the country will ring a funeral toll every hour on the hour from 9 a.m. until noon.

(c) Sunday, 29 April, shall be a special day of prayer on behalf of the Christian community of Jerusalem, in which we invite all our fellow Christian believers throughout the world to join.

We have decided to remain in an open session to monitor developments in the case.

Jerusalem, 23 April 1990

Signed by the following:

Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem

Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem

Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem

Custos of the Holy Land

Coptic Archbishop of Jerusalem

Syrian Archbishop of Jerusalem

Ethiopian Archbishop of Jerusalem

Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem
and President Bishop of Anglican Church

The Greek-Catholic Patriarchal Vicar

The Lutheran Propst of Jerusalem

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Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/254
S/21271
24 April 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fifth session
Items 94, 103, 104, 112, 113 and 142
of the preliminary list*
ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION
CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR
DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT
ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE
PRINCIPLE OF PERIODIC AND GENUINE
ELECTIONS
DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF
GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 24 April 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have been instructed by my Government to draw your attention to the attached extract from Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1989, published by the Department of State of the United States of America, which contains information on the situation concerning human rights in Mauritania (including the persistence of the practice of slavery). I have underlined passages of special relevance.

In view of the importance of this information, I have the honour to request that this attached extract be issued as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 94, 103, 104, 112, 113 and 142 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Johanan BEIN
Ambassador
Acting Permanent Representative

* A/45/50.

ANNEX*

101st Congress
2d Session

JOINT COMMITTEE PRINT

COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES FOR 1989

REPORT

SUBMITTED TO THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AND THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
U.S. SENATE

BY THE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTIONS 116(d) AND 502B(b) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961, AS AMENDED

FEBRUARY 1990

Printed for the use of the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Foreign Relations of the House of Representatives and the Senate respectively

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
24-900 WASHINGTON : 1990

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, DC 20402

* Underlining has been added by the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations.

MAURITANIA

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania has been governed since 1978 by the Military Committee for National Salvation (CMSN). Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'ahmed Taya, President of the Committee and Chief of State, assumed power in 1984 after the bloodless ouster of the former president, Lt. Col. Mohamed Khouna Ould Haidalla. All 19 members of the Military Committee hold ministerial portfolios or occupy other key military or government positions. The Committee functions as a legislative body, while the President, assisted by his Council of Ministers and a few close advisers, wields the executive power. Political parties are not allowed in Mauritania.

The security forces number about 16,000 and, in addition to the regular armed forces, include the National Guard, the gendarmerie (a specialized corps of paramilitary police) and the police. The National Guard and police come under the Minister of Interior and all have internal security functions. Over the past 3 years, the Government purged security forces of hundreds of suspected dissidents, particularly non-Hassaniya-speaking black Mauritanians and Pan-Arab Baathists.

Mauritania continues to face massive economic and social problems: drought, desertification, insect infestation, the Western Sahara conflict, extensive unemployment, one of the highest per capita foreign debts in Africa, poor infrastructure, inadequate health and education systems, and exodus from rural areas. Although adequate rains fell in 1988 and 1989, the prior drought years forced large numbers of nomads into towns, with a consequent weakening of traditional Maur nomadic culture, and a severe strain on government resources. In addition, mutual expulsions and repatriations between Senegal and Mauritania after April 1989 resulted in the movement of more than 100,000 people, placing an unprecedented economic and social strain on Mauritanian society. Many of the Mauritanians who returned had been prosperous merchants in Senegal, and important sources of foreign exchange earnings. At the same time, many of the black Africans who departed had held important technical and skilled positions in Mauritania.

The human rights situation in Mauritania deteriorated dramatically in 1989. In April Mauritania experienced one of its most serious crises since independence, when anti-Senegalese rioting in Mauritania and anti-Mauritanian rioting in Senegal left hundreds dead. In the aftermath of the rioting, tens of thousands of Senegalese citizens as well as Pulaar-speaking Mauritanian citizens were expelled to Senegal. Tens of thousands of Mauritanians and Senegalese of Maur origin similarly fled or were expelled from Senegal. Subsequently, the Mauritanian Government dismissed many Halpulaar civil servants and employees of state-owned enterprises from their positions. Although the Mauritanian authorities argued that the expellees were not true Mauritanians, but rather Senegalese with false identity papers, the fact remains that in all cases persons were forcibly removed, often without being allowed to retain their possessions, and without due process of law. Reports of unlawful detention and torture also surfaced during 1989, and most other human rights, including political freedoms, remained tightly circumscribed.

MAURITANIA

RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Section 1 Respect for the Integrity of the Person, Including Freedom from:

a. Political and Other Extrajudicial Killing

There have been no substantiated cases of members of the Government or security forces perpetrating politically motivated killings. However, serious questions remain regarding the role of the Mauritanian security forces in the initial riots on April 24-25. During the early stages of the rioting, some police officers stood by without intervening, or may even have goaded on the rioters. The Mauritanian army was called in to quell the disturbances only on April 25. Whether these incidents reflected official government policy, or were isolated instances of individuals acting on their own, is unknown. The net results of the violence were numerous deaths and extensive property damage. The Government conceded a death toll of several scores, while other sources contended that several hundred persons may have died.

b. Disappearances

There were no substantiated reports of politically motivated disappearances.

c. Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Mauritanian law specifically precludes the use of torture. There were, however, recurring reports during 1989 that the security forces used torture against dissidents and against some non-Hassaniya-speaking black Mauritanians.

On February 27, five leaders of the December 1988-January 1989 student strike at the university of Nouakchott released a report describing their 4-day interrogation and torture at the hands of the police in December 1988. The students said they were deprived of food and sleep, forced to stand without clothes outdoors in the chill of night, kicked and beaten with rubber hoses, and suspended by their hands and feet from a steel beam until they became unconscious. Several also had their heads kept immersed in water until they feared drowning. According to their report, upon their release, several of the students could not walk and remained bedridden for over a week. The students provided the names of several of their alleged police torturers in their report. The Government is not known to have acted against the alleged torturers; neither, however, did it retaliate against the students, although the report was circulated widely.

In the aftermath of the April rioting, there were recurrent unsubstantiated reports of police detention and torture of non-Hassaniya-speaking black Mauritanians, particularly in the regions along the Senegal river. These reports generally involved incidents in small villages or remote areas and were thus difficult to verify. The recurring nature of these reports, however, lends credence to the overall impression that incidents of torture did in fact take place.

One report issued by Amnesty International (AI) involved the headmaster of a school in Tetiane, who was allegedly detained and tortured by the police in Kaedi in early June. The headmaster reportedly died as a result of this treatment. The

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same report alleged that four Pulaar-speaking black Mauritanian herdsmen were detained, tortured, and possibly killed by the police in the Kaedi and M'bout region, also in June. Numerous other unsubstantiated allegations of torture surfaced, often involving efforts by the local security forces to intimidate or force Pulaar or Wolof-speaking black Mauritanians into leaving their homes and going to Senegal.

Responsibility for such alleged activities is difficult to determine; there may have been incidents in which local security forces acted independently, without orders from their superiors. Furthermore, in several areas along the river local militias of mostly Hassaniya-speaking white and black Maurs were formed, ostensibly to guard against cross-border incursions from Senegal. Since some of these civilians were armed, it is possible that some cases of torture were carried out by these militias. On balance, even though some senior members of the regime continued to voice opposition to the use of torture, reports suggest that its use increased during 1989, especially in the aftermath of the April intercommunal violence, and there were no known instances of the Government punishing those responsible.

Prison conditions in Mauritania are harsh. Four political prisoners died from disease and malnutrition at Oualata Prison in 1988, in part because the prison commandant was systematically withholding food. As a result of these deaths and the international pressures they caused, the remaining prisoners were subsequently removed from Oualata, and the commandant was dismissed and reprimanded.

d. Arbitrary Arrest, Detention, or Exile

Mauritanian law in principle assures expeditious arraignment and trial, access to legal counsel, and the right of appeal. The courts must review the legality of a person's detention no more than 72 hours after his or her arrest. Compliance with this law, however, is inconsistent. For example, the five leaders of the University of Nouakchott student strike were detained for 4 days in December 1988 without a hearing. AI has also reported that one of these students, Abdallahi Ould Bah Nagi, was subsequently detained by the police on May 29 and held without a hearing. The apparent reason for his detention was his role in the distribution of a leaflet criticizing the expulsion of non-Hassaniya-speaking black Mauritanians by the Mauritanian Government.

In the aftermath of the April riots, there were widespread stories--often from persons in refugee camps in Senegal--of detention by local officials of Pulaar-speaking black Mauritanians living in the Senegal river valley. For example, three high school teachers were reportedly arrested and detained by gendarmerie in Bababe and eventually expelled to Senegal. There were numerous reports of intimidation, arrests, prolonged detention, and expulsion centering on security forces in Kaedi and Rosso.

AI also reported that a number of Pulaar-speaking black Mauritanian civil servants, including Oumir Tall, Amidou Tidiane Ly, Memkoudou Diop, Abdanlage Wane, were arrested and detained incommunicado in May 1989 in Nouakchott. These detainees were not charged with any offense, although unofficial sources suggested that they were held because of suspected involvement in movements opposed to the Government.

MAURITANIA

In mid-November, there were widespread, credible reports of the arrest, detention, and possible torture of a number of Halpulaar teachers in the town of Kaedi. As many as 50 persons may have been detained without being officially charged, and by year's end their status remained unresolved.

Internal exile is a method of removing opposition figures from the public eye. Former President Haidalla and five of his associates, who were arrested during the 1984 coup but never charged, reportedly still remain in internal exile in remote locations. There were credible reports of the detention and exile without charges of several black Mauritanian civil servants and military personnel since May 1989. Many more were expelled to Senegal, in lieu of internal exile.

With regard to forced or compulsory labor, see Section 6.c.

e. Denial of Fair Public Trial

The legal system functions primarily under the Shari'a (Islamic law) put in place during the Haidalla regime. The Ministry of Justice plays the major role in administering the Shari'a and selecting judicial personnel. The Shari'a applies to most crimes and offenses, with the exception of commercial and banking offenses, traffic violations that cause bodily harm, and offenses against the security of the State. These three categories of offenses are all handled by the Special Court, which renders its judgments on the basis of laws modeled after French law. The Taya administration has urged the Islamic judges not to use extreme physical punishments, such as amputations, which occurred during the Haidalla regime. The Taya Government is slowly eliminating a number of unqualified Shari'a judges who were appointed during the Haidalla years. By virtue of a recent government decision, judges cannot be tenured before 7 years of service.

While trials in the ordinary courts are public, the State Security Court, which tries offenses against state security, may conduct secret trials. All defendants, regardless of the court, have the right to be present with legal counsel during the proceedings. If necessary, the accused is provided counsel at public expense. Defendants may confront witnesses and present evidence. They may appeal the sentences of the ordinary courts but not those of the Security Court. While the judiciary is nominally independent, some knowledgable observers have claimed that judges take their cue from the Government when sentencing opponents of the regime.

The right to a fair public trial in Mauritania was, by any standard, severely abused during 1989. After April, thousands of non-Hassaniya-speaking black Mauritanians, particularly in the Halpulaar community, were expelled to Senegal without any recourse to judicial proceedings. Those expelled often had no advance warning of their expulsion and no time or opportunity to carry any possessions with them. According to reports from refugee camps in Senegal, many were forced across the frontier river at gunpoint.

The Mauritanian Government contended that many, if not all, of the persons expelled were in fact of Senegalese nationality, and that their Mauritanian identity documents were fraudulent. Even if this were the case, an arbitrary determination of nationality seems to have been made without according due process to those affected. Furthermore, the Mauritanian Government appears to have ignored its own law, which

specifies that all persons, including foreigners, have a right to the protection of their property and possessions and cannot be deprived of them except by a court decision. The widespread and credible reports of confiscation and destruction of identity papers by security forces indicated a conscious and concerted effort to circumvent the legal process.

The number of political detainees and prisoners held at the end of 1989 was unknown. In December the Government released 19 political prisoners, including the head of the outlawed Baathist Party arrested in 1988, and 18 non-Hassaniya-speaking black political activists convicted in October 1986 following antigovernment political agitation.

f. Arbitrary Interference with Privacy, Family, Home, or Correspondence

In the past, government surveillance of individuals was generally limited to patrols on major highways and customs checkpoints, occasional nighttime inspections of vehicular traffic, and inspections of mail suspected of containing currency or prohibited items. Under Mauritanian law, the police require warrants to perform home searches.

The right to privacy was severely abused in Mauritania after April 1989. Expulsions of Pulaar-speaking black Mauritanians involved systematic entry of homes by security forces and forcible removal of families, without search warrants or any legal proceedings. These activities occurred predominantly in villages along the river, and thus it is unclear to what extent they were officially sanctioned by the Mauritanian Government, and to what extent they were the the work of overzealous local officials. After repeated diplomatic protests, the expulsions appeared to slow dramatically after mid-July, and there were reasons to believe that the Government was making efforts to control the situation. Nevertheless, there were continuing reports of government surveillance of suspected dissidents, as well as intimidation and harassment of Pulaar-speaking black Mauritanians in the Senegal River valley.

Section 2 Respect for Civil Liberties, Including:

a. Freedom of Speech and Press

Freedom of speech and press is restricted. While Mauritanians may criticize government policies in conversations with friends and relatives, they are somewhat more inhibited in speaking with foreigners. Military personnel are under tight surveillance, and expression of views that could be construed as even mildly critical of the Government is likely to result in close questioning by military security officers. The Government is quick to react to any public comments it thinks pose a threat to the security of the State. Many of those persons detained without a trial during 1989, including the five student strike leaders as well as many civil servants, were targets, it is believed, precisely because they voiced opposition to the current regime and its policies. In particular, the Government appeared to be sensitive to any expression of ethnic dissatisfaction or criticism of its ethnic policies.

Mauritania's only daily newspaper and the radio and television stations are government owned and operated. During the past 3 years the Government has allowed a limited amount of

discussion of government policies within the context of interviews with government officials. In early 1988, the Government authorized the publication of two privately owned monthly magazines, Mauritanie Demain and L'Evenement. These publications periodically carried articles on mildly controversial social issues, but they refrained from any direct criticism of the Government.

b. Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association

Mauritanian law recognizes the rights of assembly and association, but since the 1978 coup the Government h banned all political movements and generally prohibited meetings of a political nature. Any formal grouping must be registered with the Minister of Interior. The Government usually does not interfere with assemblies and associations as long as they avoid political activity.

c. Freedom of Religion

Islam is the official religion of Mauritania; virtually all citizens are Muslim. Mauritanian Muslims are prohibited from entering non-Islamic houses of worship and from converting to another religion. Proselytizing by non-Muslims and the construction of Christian churches and other non-Islamic houses of worship require government permission. The Roman Catholic community in Mauritania has five churches which operate freely as long as they restrict their services to resident foreigners.

d. Freedom of Movement Within the Country, Foreign Travel, Emigration, and Repatriation

Traditionally, there have been few restrictions on movement within Mauritania, where nomadism has long been a way of life. Travelers, however, are subjected to routine police and customs checks along all major roads and at the country's international and domestic airports. During the riots of April 1989, dusk-to-dawn curfews were imposed in Nouakchott, Nouadhibou, and some other cities but were reduced and finally lifted as the situation calmed. During the final months of 1989, as cross-border incidents from Senegal increased, curfews were imposed in a number of villages in the Senegal river valley as well. Since 1985 Mauritanians no longer need an exit visa to travel abroad, although there were reports of some persons being denied passports.

During 1989 large numbers of Mauritanians had their citizenship effectively revoked and were subsequently expelled to Senegal. The revocations of citizenship, which may have involved as many as 50,000 people, appear in many cases to have been based entirely on ethnicity. Only non-Hassaniya-speaking Mauritanians, particularly Halpulaar and, to a much lesser degree, other black African ethnic groups, were affected. Many of these displaced persons were not accorded Senegalese citizenship and thus in effect became stateless persons. At year's end, the Mauritanian Government had not taken specific steps to permit access to the courts by expellees who wished to obtain confirmation of their citizenship and right to return home. However, there was a small but indeterminate number of cases of acknowledged Mauritanians being allowed to return, apparently as a result of individual extrajudicial petitions or intervention by officials.

MAURITANIA

As many as 80,000 displaced persons arrived in Mauritania from Senegal during April and May of 1989. While many of these were Mauritanian citizen repatriates, many others were Senegalese citizens of ethnic Maur origin. The arrival of these repatriates and refugees placed a heavy additional burden on the Mauritanian economy. Although hard pressed for resources, the Mauritanian Government made commendable and largely successful efforts to assist all those arriving from Senegal. The Government also permitted the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to establish temporary offices in Nouakchott to provide aid to displaced persons. There were no reports of refugees being returned forcibly to Senegal.

As a result of the ongoing conflict in neighboring Western Sahara between Morocco and the Polisario Front, a small number of refugees from the Western Sahara have settled in Nouadhibou and other northern towns. They have been successfully absorbed into Mauritanian society.

Section 3 Respect for Political Rights: The Right of Citizens to Change Their Government

Citizens of Mauritania are unable democratically to change their government at the national level. All political power rests in the hands of the military regime. The Military Committee for National Salvation (CMSN) remains the "custodian of the nation's sovereignty," and all executive and legislative functions reside with it. Membership is limited to military officers who occupy ministerial positions or important military and security posts. The CMSN is predominantely comprised of Hassaniya-speaking Maurs, although members of other ethnic groups are members. However, non-Maur membership on the CMSN, as well as among those holding senior government or military positions, decreased in 1989 in the wake of ethnic tensions.

In early January, the Government held elections in 164 rural communes. All Mauritanians, aged 21 years or older and residing in these localities, were entitled to vote, and the ballot was secret. In most localities, two or more slates of candidates competed for the electorate's vote.

Section 4 Governmental Attitude Regarding International and Nongovernmental Investigation of Alleged Violations of Human Rights

The Taya Government in the past has been generally responsive to human rights concerns. For example, it cooperated with the U.N. Human Rights Commission Working Group on slavery by allowing a representative to come to Mauritania to obtain information on this issue. In 1987 the Government permitted representatives of AI to visit Nouakchott for discussions on racial and ethnic tensions in Mauritania. In 1988 a delegation from the International Commission of Jurists and the Chairman of the African Jurists Association visited Mauritania to review human rights practices.

As a result of President Taya's public support for basic human rights, the Mauritanian Human Rights League was formed in 1986. The League, which is affiliated with the Paris-based International Federation of Human Rights, is staffed by volunteers who address such concerns as eradicating remaining vestiges of slavery, ensuring the uniform application of

Shari'a law, promoting the status of women, and preventing abuses such as arbitrary arrest, detention, and torture. In 1988, the League hosted the first conference on Maghrebian human rights.

In the wake of the ethnic disturbances of 1989, the League experienced serious difficulties in its efforts to remain a viable and independent human rights organization. On May 3, 1989, League Director Ghali Ould Abdel Hamid was arrested for "threatening state security" at Nouakchott airport after he publicly faulted the Governments of Senegal and Mauritania for failing to address ethnic problems. Ghali was released after 34 hours of detention.

In the weeks following Ghali's arrest, the League continued to speak out on the subject of human rights abuses, and on July 21, 1989, issued a statement critical of government expulsions of non-Hassaniya-speaking black Mauritanians. The League continued to face considerable pressure from the Government, however, and on July 31, 1989, issued a statement critical of AI's declaration condemning Mauritania's expulsions of its citizens.

Section 5 Discrimination Based on Race, Sex, Religion, Language, or Social Status

Mauritania is situated geographically and culturally on the divide between traditionally nomadic Arabic-speaking Maurs of the north and the sedentary black cultivators of the African south. The interaction of these two groups produces the complex cultural diversity as well as the ethnic tensions inherent in Mauritanian society. Historically, the Hassaniya-speaking white Maurs have dominated the political and economic system. Taken together, the Hassaniya-speaking black Maurs--members of the former slave caste--and Mauritania's non-Hassaniya-speaking blacks outnumber the white Maurs by a considerable majority. This racial majority is by no means cohesive, however, since black Maurs identify in many ways more closely with the white Maur population.

Many non-Hassaniya-speaking black Mauritanians have long contended that since independence, white Maur domination in government, state enterprises, business, and religious institutions is a result of ethnic and linguistic discrimination. Their grievances have included a reduction of the numbers of non-Hassaniya-speaking black Mauritanians at all levels of government, and the increasing use of Hassaniya rather than French in many sectors of Mauritanian government and business. They have also pointed to the Government's new land reform law as a means to allow white and black Maurs to take control of fertile land in the Senegal river valley that had been traditionally the preserve of non-Hassaniya-speaking black Mauritanians. Recent movements of nomads into the Senegal river valley as a result of the decade-long drought in the north further exacerbated tensions.

The violence in April that resulted in many deaths was in general more the result of an eruption of underlying ethnic tensions rather than an officially sanctioned government policy, but the expulsions of non-Hassaniya-speaking black Mauritanians that followed were largely orchestrated by Mauritanian security forces.

Both white and black Maurs were resettled into the villages in the Senegal river valley from which Halpulaar residents were

forcibly expelled. While many of those resettled were themselves refugees from Senegal, others had moved from northern Mauritania in search of richer farmlands. These resettlements have set the stage for future disputes over land tenure and a continuation of ethnic tensions in the Senegal river valley.

Women in Mauritanian Muslim society are often limited to traditional roles, which may encompass considerable financial and civil autonomy, especially outside the few urban areas. The Government is encouraging the entry of women into the professions, government, and business. In late 1988, the Taya Government created a new Ministry of Women's Affairs, Arts, and Tourism, and appointed a woman as the first Minister. The Government has also been instrumental in opening up new opportunities for employment traditionally reserved for men, such as in hospital work. According to Mauritanian law, men and women must receive equal pay for equal work, and Mauritania's two largest employers, the civil service and the state mining company SNIM, respect this law. In smaller private enterprises, wages are often determined by informal bargaining, leading to sometimes significant discrepancies in what two persons are paid for the same work.

While data are very limited, violence against women does not appear to be prevalent in Mauritania. Female genital mutilation (circumcision) is a widespread, traditional practice. The Government has taken no position nor issued any statements on violence against women or on genital mutilation. In some areas of southern Mauritania, the most extreme form of mutilation, infibulation, is practiced. Some evidence indicates that the incidence of female excision is diminishing in the modern, urbanized sector, and for an Islamic country, women are allowed a relatively great degree of freedom.

Section 6 Worker Rights

a. The Right of Association

Workers are free to establish unions at the local and national level. There are currently 36 trade unions in the country. All, however, must be affiliates of the Union of Mauritanian Workers (UTM), by law the country's only central labor organization. The trade unions and the UTM elect their leadership democratically, and they are free to determine their programs and policies, provided these avoid political issues. The UTM is an active member of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions and the Organization of African Trade Union Unity.

Mauritanian law grants workers the right to strike. In practice, however, the Government discourages strikes, and they rarely occur. Under Mauritanian law, tripartite arbitration committees, composed of union, business, and government representatives, may impose binding arbitration that automatically terminates any strike.

In recent years, the UTM had been paralyzed by bitter factional disputes. In early 1989, elections and a national congress were held, and a new leadership moved quickly to revitalize the UTM. It did not, however, voice any opposition to the Government's dismissal of numerous non-Hassaniya-speaking black civil servants that occurred after April.

MAURITANIA

b. The Right to Organize and Bargain Collectively

Unions are free to organize workers without government or employer interference. According to the UTM, close to 90 percent of industrial and commercial workers in Mauritania are members of unions. The laws providing worker's protection against antiunion discrimination are regularly enforced. Collective bargaining, notably to set wages, occurs informally between individual unions and employers but also involves the Government and the UTM. In addition, employees or employers may bring labor disputes to three-person labor courts that are overseen jointly by the Ministries of Justice and Labor. Labor leaders regard these courts as unbiased and effective. There are no export processing zones in Mauritania, and labor laws are applied uniformly throughout the country.

c. Prohibition of Forced or Compulsory Labor

The subject of forced labor is tied to the vestiges of slavery which exist in some areas of Mauritania. Slavery was abolished officially only in 1980, and some persons whose ancestors had worked without pay for generations for a particular family still occupied positions of servitude in 1989. This was due in part to the economic hardships they would have encountered if they had left. There were reports, however, that in some remote areas persons were sometimes held against their will and forced to perform unpaid labor. The authorities stop such practices when they come to their attention. The Taya regime is making a systematic effort to appoint members of the former slave caste to high government and military positions as a visible indication of the end of slavery.

d. Minimum Age for Employment of Children

Education is not compulsory in Mauritania, but Mauritanian law specifies that no child may be employed before the age of 13 in the agricultural sector without the permission of the Minister of Labor, nor before the age of 15 in the nonagricultural sector. The law provides that employed children aged 14 through 16 should receive 70 percent of the minimum wage, and those from 17 through 18 should receive 90 percent of the minimum wage. In practice, much younger children in the countryside pursue herding, cultivation, and other significant labor in support of their families' traditional activities. Although there are no data available, child labor in the nonagricultural sector is not widespread.

e. Acceptable Conditions of Work

In 1989 the guaranteed minimum wage for adults was equivalent to roughly $70 per month. These wages barely enabled the average family to meet its minimum needs. The standard, nonagricultural workweek in Mauritania cannot exceed either 40 hours or 6 days without overtime compensation, which is paid at the following rates: 41-48 hours--115 percent; 49-54 hours--140 percent; 55 plus hours--150 percent of the base wage. Reliable data on actual wage levels is scanty and unreliable. Enforcement of the labor laws, the responsibility of the Labor Inspectorate, Ministry of Labor, is limited by the shortage of qualified personnel.

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/255
26 April 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
Item 18 of the preliminary list*

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Letter dated 19 April 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Solomon Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Melanesian Spearhead Group countries that are also members of the United Nations - Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu - I have the honour to request that the present letter and its annex, the Final Communiqué of the Fifth Heads of Government Summit of the Melanesian Spearhead Group held at Honiara from 7 to 9 March 1990, be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 18 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) R. SISILO
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/45/50.

ANNEX

Joint communiqué of the Fifth Heads of Government Summit of the Melanesian Spearhead Group held at Honiara from 7 to 9 March 1990

The Fifth Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Heads of Government meeting was held at Honiara from 7 to 9 March 1990.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, the Hon. Akoka Doi, the Prime Minister of Solomon Islands. The Hon. Solomon Sunaone Mamaloni who chaired the meeting, and the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, the Hon. Fr. Walter Lini. A delegation of the Front de Libération National Kanak et Socialiste (FLNKS) also attended the summit.

New Caledonia

The Heads of Government were briefed by the leader of the FLNKS delegation on the latest developments in New Caledonia. The summit noted the progress made by France to date in preparing New Caledonia for self-determination but the Melanesian Spearhead Group is concerned that these measures do not fully address the major objective of preparing the territory for independence in accordance with United Nations principles and practices.

In reviewing other aspects of developments in relation to New Caledonia, MSG reaffirmed its earlier call for:

(a) Training assistance to be extended to Kanaks;

(b) Provision of financial assistance to attend regional and international meetings; and

(c) The United Nations to send regular visiting missions to New Caledonia.

The Heads of Government also agreed to accord full membership of FLNKS in the MSG and further to seek observer status for FLNKS in the South Pacific Forum.

Aid co-ordination

MSG noted the initiatives of international and regional organizations to assess fully the implication of events occurring in Eastern Europe, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the move towards a single Europe in 1992, as this may relate to flow of assistance to the South Pacific region.

Functional co-operation

The Heads of Government agreed that the sitting Chairman be responsible for the task of following up resolutions to strengthen implementation of decisions of the MSG.

Trade

The leaders reaffirmed the need to promote trade, including granting of favourable tariff arrangements.

It was agreed that the study on trade prospects among the MSG countries be undertaken.

Air services

The Heads of Government reaffirmed their commitment to the existing air services arrangements among them and agreed that their national airlines further take steps to ensure improvement of facilities and services.

Consular matters

The Heads of Government reaffirmed their intention to encourage free movement of citizens of the MSG countries, including the need to relax immigration, quarantine and customs requirements.

The leaders noted that Papua New Guinea has appointed Honorary Consuls in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Education

The Heads of Government agreed on the need to promote student exchange programmes and co-ooperation between educational institutions in MSG countries. It was noted that there is potential to co-operate in the area of developing and introducing appropriate vernacular teaching in primary schools.

Bougainville issue

The summit acknowledged the comprehensive briefing by the Deputy Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea or the current situation on Bougainville. They acknowledged the situation on Bougainville as an internal matter for Papua New Guinea and appreciated the manner in which the problem is being addressed.

The summit further noted the cease-fire and the international monitoring arrangements to be introduced to address the situation on Bougainville.

Other business

The Deputy Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea conveyed the appreciation of his Government to the Government of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu for their support in the election of a Papua New Guinea national for the post of Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth.

The Prime Minister of Solomon Islands informed the summit that his Government would offer two scholarships to Kanaks in 1991 at the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education.

The Heads of Government accepted with thanks the offer by the Government of Vanuatu to host the next summit in 1991.

UNITED NATIONS

A E

General Assembly

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/256
E/1990/58
7 May 1990
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fifth session
Item 12 of the preliminary list*
REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Second regular session of 1990
CO-ORDINATION QUESTIONS:
PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

Global strategy for the prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on developments in the global AIDS pandemic.

2. The report was prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 44/233 of 22 December 1989, in which the Assembly, inter alia, urged Member States to increase their efforts to combat AIDS and to encourage, support and facilitate national efforts to prevent the further spread of the disease; called upon international, national and research institutions and organizations to co-ordinate their activities so as to provide input to and be supportive of the policy of national AIDS committees and the global AIDS strategy of the World Health Organization; requested the Secretary-General to invite the Director-General of the World Health Organization, in close collaboration with the other organizations of the United Nations system, to continue to develop and advance the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS; and requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Director-General of the World Health Organization, all other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, and the WHO/UNDP Alliance to Combat AIDS, to intensify his efforts, at all levels, to deal with the socio-economic and humanitarian aspects of the pandemic.

3. Accordingly, while the present report provides an update on the global epidemiological situation, it also reflects the increased efforts by United Nations entities in promoting AIDS prevention and control activities, as well as efforts to deal with the socio-economic and humanitarian aspects of the pandemic.

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* A/45/50.

ANNEX

Report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS

Summary

This report is prepared in response to resolution 1989/108 of the Economic and Social Council and resolution 44/233 of the United Nations General Assembly, which requested the Director-General of the World Health Organization to continue to develop and advance the global AIDS strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS with specific reference to non-governmental organizations, women, children, abuse of drugs, access to affordable technologies and pharmaceuticals, and the active participation of public and private sector enterprises.

The present document is based, inter alia, on the report of the Director-General to the Forty-Third World Health Assembly (WHA/43/6) (available on request from the Organization's headquarters at Geneva) - and contains contributions from the organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system which are members of the Inter-Agency Advisory Group, established by WHO to co-ordinate the AIDS activities of the United Nations system.

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	GLOBAL AIDS EPIDEMIOLOGY	1 - 16	4
	A. World-wide distribution of HIV/AIDS	1 - 7	4
	B. Modes of transmission	8 - 9	5
	C. Global epidemiological patterns	10 - 13	5
	D. HIV prevalence estimates and global AIDS projections ..	14 - 16	6
II.	EVOLUTION OF THE GLOBAL AIDS STRATEGY AND HIGHLIGHTS OF 1989 ACTIVITIES OF THE WHO GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON AIDS	17 - 34	6
	A. Global AIDS strategy	17 - 21	6
	B. Highlights of 1989 activities	22 - 34	7
III.	COLLABORATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM	35 - 77	10
	A. Activities carried out jointly by the World Health Organization and an organization or specialized agency of the United Nations system	36 - 47	10
	B. Activities carried out individually by organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system .	48 - 77	13

I. GLOBAL AIDS EPIDEMIOLOGY

A. World-wide distribution of HIV/AIDS

1. World-wide AIDS surveillance is co-ordinated by the WHO Global Programme on AIDS. Reports are received from individual ministries of health, as well as from WHO collaborating centres on AIDS and WHO regional offices. The number of officially reported AIDS cases world-wide as at 1 April 1990 was 237,110; however, WHO estimates the actual number to be over 600,000.

2. In the past four years, the cumulative number of AIDS cases reported to WHO increased more than 18-fold, and the number of countries reporting AIDS cases to WHO increased by more than 100, which not only illustrates the widespread distribution of AIDS, but also testifies to the growing openness of countries in responding to the pandemic.

3. The full burden of HIV infection and AIDS as a result of transmission from an HIV-infected woman to her fetus or infant remains particularly underrecognized. The underestimate results both from underreporting and from the difficulty in diagnosing paediatric AIDS cases before the child is 15 to 18 months old.

4. In Africa, as at 1 April 1990, more than 1,000 cases had been reported by Burundi, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and 500 to 1,000 cases by Burkina Faso and the Central African Republic. Although cases were first officially reported from Africa in 1982, about 90 per cent of the total were cases reported after the beginning of 1987. WHO estimates that, since the beginning of the epidemic, a total of over 300,000 AIDS cases have occurred in adults in Africa, primarily sub-Saharan Africa.

5. In the Americas, as at 1 April 1990, the United States of America had reported 124,282 cases, or over 80 per cent of all cases in the region. Brazil, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico had each reported more than 1,000 cases. Countries reporting 250 to 1,000 cases included Argentina (566), the Bahamas (437), Colombia (643), Honduras (512), Peru (254), Trinidad and Tobago (557) and Venezuela (646), while those reporting 100 to 249 cases included Barbados (112), Bermuda (135), Chile (178), Costa Rica (151), El Salvador (165), Jamaica (140), and Panama (180); 100 to 249 cases were also reported by French Guiana (150), Guadeloupe (175) and Martinique (115).

6. In Europe, the greatest numbers of cases were reported from France (8,883), Italy (5,307), the Federal Republic of Germany (4,544), Spain (4,633) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2,920). The lowest numbers were reported from the eastern European countries, with Albania reporting no cases.

7. In Asia and the Pacific, 51 countries reported the remaining 1 per cent of the world cumulative total, namely, 2,565 cases as at 1 April 1990. In Oceania, 1,760 cases were reported from Australia and 156 from New Zealand. Countries in Asia reported 618 AIDS cases, with the following reporting 10 or more cases:

Japan (182), India (40), the Philippines (26), Thailand (32), Papua New Guinea (13) and Singapore (15). Hong Kong reported 22 cases.

B. Modes of transmission

8. Epidemiological studies in Europe, the Americas, Africa and Australia continue to document only three modes of HIV transmission: (a) sexual intercourse, whether heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual; (b) exposure to blood, blood products, or donated organs or semen (exposure to blood principally involves transfusion of unscreened blood or use of inadequately sterilized needles, syringes, or other skin-piercing instruments); and (c) perinatal transmission from an infected woman to her fetus or infant.

9. There is no evidence to suggest that HIV can be transmitted by the respiratory or enteric routes or by casual person-to-person contact in any setting, including household, social, workplace, school or prison settings. There is no evidence that HIV transmission involves insects, food, water, toilets, swimming pools, sweat, tears, shared eating and drinking utensils, or other items such as second-hand clothing or telephones.

C. Global epidemiological patterns

10. WHO has described several broad patterns of HIV transmission and AIDS according to prevailing sexual practices and social risk behaviour (mainly intravenous drug use).

11. Pattern I areas include the industrialized countries of North America, Western Europe, Australia, New Zealand and, to some extent, Latin America. Extensive spread of HIV probably began in the late 1970s or early 1980s, affecting predominantly homosexual men and intravenous drug users. The overall male-to-female ratio of HIV-infected persons has been 10:1 and, as at late 1989, the total cumulative number of HIV-infected persons is estimated to be about 2 million. The epidemiological pattern in some Pattern I countries is evolving. In many Latin American countries, transmission among heterosexuals with multiple sex partners has been increasing, making this the dominant mode of HIV transmission. Because of that shift, this region has been reclassified as Pattern I/II.

12. Pattern II areas include primarily sub-Saharan Africa, and increasingly countries in the Caribbean and parts of Latin America. In those areas, heterosexual transmission of HIV predominates, the male-to-female ratio of HIV infections and AIDS cases is close to equal, and perinatal transmission is on the rise. WHO estimates the cumulative number of HIV infections in those areas to be over 3 million. Rural areas generally have been less severely affected, but that may be changing. There are still many Pattern II countries whose populations at risk of HIV infection appear as yet relatively unaffected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

13. Pattern III areas include Asia, most of the Pacific countries (excluding Australia and New Zealand), eastern Europe, northern Africa, and the Middle East, where HIV was introduced in the early to mid-1980s, but the general prevalence of both AIDS cases and HIV infections in those areas is low. In at least one Pattern III country, Thailand, extensive spread of HIV infection has been documented, with the prevalence among the estimated 50,000 Bangkok intravenous drug users rising from about 1 per cent in late 1987 to about 50 per cent in early 1990. Also, in early 1989, HIV infections were found among intravenous drug users in Rangoon. In south-east India, surveys of prostitutes in some cities have found an HIV prevalence of between 5 per cent and 15 per cent.

D. HIV prevalence estimates and global AIDS projections

14. In 1987, WHO estimated that between 5 and 10 million individuals were infected with HIV-1 or HIV-2, distributed more or less equally between Pattern I and Pattern II (including Pattern I/II) areas, with about 100,000 or fewer in Pattern III areas. In mid-1988, the estimate of WHO was closer to the lower end of the 1987 estimate - about 5 to 6 million. Estimates of HIV-infected individuals have generally been revised downward as data have accumulated; for example, the Centres for Disease Control of the United States Public Health Service estimated in 1986 that about 1 to 1.5 million individuals across the United States were HIV-infected, while the 1989 estimate was 1 million.

15. The majority of AIDS cases projected for the next five years would be expected to occur even if HIV transmission had ceased completely in 1989. The median time from infection to the development of AIDS is about 10 years. Thus, over the next decade, at least 3 million additional adult AIDS cases can be expected to develop among the more than 5 million persons throughout the world estimated to have already become infected with HIV as by 1988.

16. Early in 1989, WHO projected the course of the AIDS pandemic to the year 2000, using the Delphi questionnaire survey method. Participants were selected for their knowledge of the global epidemiology of HIV infection and AIDS. The Delphi projections suggest that the cumulative total number of adult AIDS cases might reach 5 to 6 million by the year 2000. More than half the AIDS cases in adults in the 1990s are expected to develop in persons already infected by 1988. Many of the projected AIDS cases that might arise from future HIV infections are considered to be preventable by global and regional HIV/AIDS prevention and control efforts carried out in conjunction with national programmes.

II. EVOLUTION OF THE GLOBAL AIDS STRATEGY AND HIGHLIGHTS OF 1989 ACTIVITIES OF THE WHO GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON AIDS

A. Global AIDS strategy

17. The work of WHO is predicated on its critical role of co-ordinating and directing world-wide efforts against AIDS. As the political and social response to HIV becomes increasingly complex, and biomedical research brings not only new

tools, but also new complexities to HIV/AIDS prevention and control, WHO must respond to new challenges as it seeks to further the three objectives of the global AIDS strategy: to prevent HIV transmission, to reduce the personal and social impact of HIV/AIDS, and to unify national and international efforts against HIV/AIDS.

18. Development, monitoring and evaluation of the global AIDS strategy is the central responsibility of WHO in AIDS prevention and control. Particular attention is being given to monitoring the implementation of key policies through national AIDS programmes. The rapid pace of scientific, epidemiological, social, and political developments requires constant attention, because they have a direct influence on the global AIDS strategy.

19. In response to challenges of HIV, many countries have developed different approaches to specific problems. For example, innovative efforts to reduce HIV transmission among self-injecting drug users have included programmes for needle exchange and for expansion of needle/syringe availability and bleach distribution. In each instance, those approaches are part of a broader health promotion and prevention activity.

20. In the area of the care and treatment of HIV-infected persons, including those with AIDS and those living with them, a wealth of experience is now available, particularly in non-governmental and other community-based organizations. However, without careful evaluation of those experiences and the development of methods to ascertain health and social service needs, the care and support of affected people may be inadequate.

21. In 1980, the Programme had been focusing on three areas which merit special attention. First, strategic and operational relationships between the global AIDS strategy and primary health care must be strengthened to ensure the integration of AIDS prevention and control activities within primary health care programmes, unless this would compromise HIV/AIDS programmes. Second, it is essential to strengthen the role of non-governmental organizations in developing, implementing, and monitoring the global AIDS strategy at all levels, as called for by the World Health Assembly in its resolution WHA42.34. Third, as research produces new diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive technologies, it is essential to consider strategies to ensure global availability of appropriate new technologies.

B. Highlights of 1989 activities

22. During its two meetings in 1989, the Management Committee of the Global Programme on AIDS reviewed the implementation of the 1989 programme budget and endorsed the overall strategy presented in the proposed programme budget for 1990 and estimates for 1991. Five organizations of the United Nations system are members of the Management Committee - United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Population Fund and the World Bank - in addition to the Commission for the European Communities, 18 donor Governments and 12 Member States selected by the WHO Regional Committees. The Management Committee met on 26 and 27 April and is scheduled to meet again from 26 to 28 November 1990.

23. By the end of January 1990, the progress accomplished in establishing national AIDS programmes was notable in three ways. First, every country in the world has created a national response to HIV/AIDS. Second, by the end of 1989, of the 159 countries collaborating with WHO, 123 had short-term plans and 95 had formulated a medium-term plan for their programme (table 1). Third, the quality of planning has improved substantially as attention is paid to national differences and increasing experience being gained in implementation and programme review.

TABLE 1. Support to national AIDS programmes, 1987-1989

(cumulative numbers of countries)

	1987	1988		1989		1990
	November	January	June	January	June	January
Initial technical visits	93	111	137	152	155	159
Short-term plans	58	75	106	118	120	123
Medium-term plans	25	26	28	51	74	95
Resource mobilization meetings	5	5	9	29	42	65
Programme reviews	-	-	-	1	5	10

24. Technical support has been provided in designing, implementing, and monitoring short- and medium-term national AIDS plans. In addition, substantial support has been provided in areas of particular importance for national AIDS programme development, including health promotion, epidemiological surveillance, clinical management of HIV infection and AIDS, counselling, and laboratory and blood transfusion services. Operational support to national AIDS programmes has included personnel, training, equipment and supplies, as well as financial resources.

25. While the initial and preparatory steps have proceeded rapidly, difficulties have been encountered in the process of national AIDS programme development. Implementation of the programmes has been constrained by two major problems: pre-existing limitations on human and institutional resources, and special complexities involved in AIDS prevention and control. Fundamental resource and infrastructure constraints have made it difficult to meet organizational pre-conditions for advancing from national programme formulation to implementation. Understaffed and underequipped ministries of health see AIDS as yet another challenge at a time of severe resource constraints, and these difficulties are compounded by uncertainty about the depth and sustainability of international support for national AIDS programmes in the developing world.

26. A major effort in manpower planning and development has been made to support national programmes in evaluating staff needs and defining skills to be provided through training, and helping them to undertake such training. For example, more than 400 health educators participated in training workshops in various regions in the world. More than 300 laboratory specialists have been trained in HIV diagnosis, and almost 1,000 in counselling HIV-infected persons and families.

27. WHO has played a critical role in generating resources internationally and in co-ordinating their allocation to countries, both by making support from the WHO trust fund for the Global Programme on AIDS available to countries for their short-term programmes (in most cases those funds were the sole source of external support) and by organizing resource mobilization meetings for 65 countries during the period May 1987 to January 1990, which yielded over $US 160 million.

28. Guidelines developed by the Programme in close collaboration with other WHO programmes, the WHO collaborating centres on AIDS, and external organizations concerned, have been published in the WHO AIDS Series, which is distributed to all ministries of health and made available through WHO sales outlets. During 1989 and early 1990, the following volumes in the WHO AIDS Series were published: the second edition of the Guidelines on Sterilization and Disinfection Methods Effective against human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), a/ Guidelines on the Monitoring of National AIDS Prevention and Control Programmes, b/ Guide to Planning Health Promotion for AIDS Prevention and Control, c/ Prevention of Sexual Transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), d/ and Guidelines for AIDS and First Aid in the Workplace, e/ which were developed in collaboration with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and ILO.

29. The theme of World AIDS Day in 1989 was AIDS and youth. WHO distributed over 50,000 newsletters and brochures and tens of thousands of "action kits" with a guide for organizing World AIDS Day events. The kits were produced in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and German, with additional materials in Russian and Chinese. WHO produced two special videos designed to reach young people, issued special packages of radio materials to over 200 countries and provided a 24-hour global radio "hot line" service on 1 December for radio journalists. WHO organized events at headquarters and inaugurated an international panel of the "Names Project Quilt". Similarly, round-table discussions, the production of video tapes, broadcasts and seminars were organized by the six regional offices of WHO and the Liaison Office in New York.

30. The theme for World AIDS Day 1990 is "Women and AIDS" and it will reflect the increasing effect of AIDS on women, as well as the crucial role women play in preventing infection with HIV and caring for HIV-infected people and people with AIDS.

31. The Government of France and WHO organized the International Conference on the Implications of AIDS for Mothers and Children, held in Paris, from 27 to 30 November 1989, under the co-sponsorship of UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, the ILO, the World Bank and the Council of Europe. In preparation for the Conference, 10 technical working groups were set up on the following topics relating to HIV/AIDS in women and children: virology; immunology; epidemiology; clinical

management; HIV and pregnancy; diagnosis; implications for health, education, community and social welfare systems; and economic and demographic impact. The Declaration made by the Conference on 30 November was reviewed by the WHO Executive Board in January 1990 and commended to the attention of the Forty-third World Health Assembly.

32. As part of the efforts to strengthen collaboration with non-governmental organizations, WHO supported the organizing committee for a proposed non-governmental international council of AIDS service organizations scheduled to be launched in June 1990. In addition, a preliminary version of an inventory of non-governmental organizations working on AIDS in developing countries, prepared under contract with the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service, was completed in November 1989.

33. Since 1988, non-governmental organizations working on AIDS at the country level have been able to obtain funding from the country accounts in the WHO Trust Fund for the Global Programme on AIDS, subject to review by the national AIDS programme. In addition, in 1989 over $US 650,000 were provided to non-governmental organizations for country-level activities. In 1990, $US 1 million are allocated to the experimental partnership programme for innovative and replicable community-based activities in HIV/AIDS prevention and care. All such activities are subject to approval by the national AIDS programme.

34. Innovative activities during 1989 included the development of condom procurement standards with increased emphasis on the issue of quality assurance and the preparation of materials to support condom services management at the national level. In addition, clinical management protocols for HIV infection and disease management had been developed and field tested. The Programme also designed a new WHO staging system for HIV infection and disease, now being tested in 30 centres, as a common basis for comparing studies from various countries.

III. COLLABORATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

35. Co-ordination is facilitated through the United Nations Steering Committee, chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, and through the Inter-agency Advisory Group, established by WHO to co-ordinate AIDS activities of the entire United Nations system. The Inter-agency Advisory Group is studying the impact of AIDS on health, personnel and welfare policies and practices of the United Nations system, and will make recommendations on this to the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination or the Consultative Committee for Administrative Questions, as appropriate.

A. Activities carried out jointly by the World Health Organization and an organization or specialized agency of the United Nations system

36. The WHO/UNDP Alliance to combat AIDS continues to co-ordinate support for national plans for AIDS prevention and control from all external partners,

including those in the United Nations system, and to organize resource mobilization meetings in collaboration with Governments. Under the auspices of the Alliance, UNDP has also been involved in assisting the integration of national AIDS plans into overall development policies and priorities at the country level, in supporting programme development and delivery, and in helping Governments to minimize the impact of HIV/AIDS on social and economic development. A second workshop on implementation organized by the Alliance, held at Geneva from 10 to 12 July 1989, brought together representatives of national AIDS programmes, as well as staff of UNDP and WHO from 18 countries, with a view to drawing up detailed operational guidelines (see also paras. 56-59 below).

37. In collaboration with UNESCO, WHO completed a Guide for school health education to prevent AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. It served as a catalyst for seven projects aimed at introducing innovative approaches to AIDS education within school systems. Those projects are being implemented with the collaboration of UNESCO and the ministries of education and of health within the various countries - currently, Ethiopia, Fiji, Jamaica, Mauritius, Sierra Leone, the United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela. This guide is complemented by a version containing policy guidelines for high-level planners and administrators, which provides the rationale and methodology for integrating AIDS education into school curricula.

38. WHO provided technical and financial support for the World Consultation of Teachers' Organizations on Education for AIDS Prevention, which took place at UNESCO headquarters in Paris from 2 to 7 April 1990. WHO is co-sponsoring the meeting with UNESCO, the ILO, and four international teachers' organizations (the International Federation of Free Teachers' Unions, the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession, the World Confederation of Teachers, and the World Federation of Teachers' Unions). The aim of the meeting was to mobilize teachers' associations world-wide to provide support for education projects within their countries (see also paras. 60 to 62).

39. WHO provided forecasts of the numbers of HIV infections and AIDS cases in infants and women in sub-Saharan Africa for UNICEF programme planning of services for women and children. UNICEF continues to participate actively in resource mobilization meetings for national AIDS plans.

40. WHO co-hosted with UNICEF a workshop on future directions for national AIDS information and education campaigns for the general public, held at Geneva from 19 to 21 June 1989, with the following objectives: (a) to reflect on past experience with national education and information campaigns, national immunization, and related child-survival campaigns, and contraceptive/family planning campaigns; (b) to evaluate the effectiveness of national AIDS information and education campaigns, and (c) to formulate recommendations for future directions. It was attended by 23 health educators and administrators from national AIDS programmes, UNICEF offices, and national organizations (see also paras. 64-67 below).

41. WHO is collaborating with the United Nations Office at Vienna to develop links relating to the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board, UNFDAC, the Social Development Division, and the Division for the

Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. A joint project on AIDS and prisons is under way; and a report is being prepared for the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, to be held in Havana in August 1990. The Office is collaborating in the initiative on self-injecting drug users. Ways of expanding the involvement of ministries of social welfare in AIDS-related activities are being discussed (see paras. 68-71 below).

42. Collaboration between UNFPA, the WHO Global Programme on AIDS and the Division of Family Health has resulted in the development of technical and managerial guidelines. An AIDS training strategy for service providers in MCH/FP has also been developed and is in the initial stages of implementation. At the country level, UNFPA continues to participate in national AIDS programme donor meetings and is promoting the incorporation of appropriate AIDS prevention and control activities into its ongoing support to the development of national MCH/FP programmes. UNFPA has funded a project in Kenya on the integration of AIDS information-education-communication strategy with population education, and has helped formulate a project in Thailand on improving reproductive health in women from high-risk groups. Close co-operation between UNFPA and WHO is facilitated by the secondment of a UNFPA staff member to WHO/GPA (see also para. 51).

43. The World Bank is collaborating with WHO in studies on the economic and demographic impact of AIDS and its implications for health-care costs. Joint activities include projects on costing national AIDS programmes, developing methodology for rapid assessment of prevalence of sexually-transmitted diseases, and assessing communications infrastructures. WHO is collaborating with the World Bank to develop a research tool for the assessment of technical, institutional, and personnel resources for education and information interventions in terms of their usefulness for health promotion for AIDS prevention and control. The World Bank is providing financial support to collaborative research between GPA, the Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction and the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases.

44. A joint WHO/ILO brochure on AIDS and the workplace has been prepared, and guidelines for AIDS and first aid in the workplace, as a collaborative activity of WHO, ILO and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (see para. 29 above). WHO and ILO collaborated in two other consultations: on AIDS and seafarers and on occupational exposure of health workers to HIV.

45. Technical collaboration between the United Nations Population Division and WHO has been established to assess the demographic impact of HIV/AIDS. A joint technical meeting involving AIDS programme personnel from Africa, and potential funding agencies for promising AIDS models was held at New York in December 1989.

46. WHO provided technical and financial support for an FAO study to explore methods to assess the potential impact of HIV/AIDS on food production and agricultural policies in central Africa. A report on this initial modelling method has been prepared (see also para. 77 below).

47. WHO supported a consultation on AIDS and human rights, organized by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, and held at Geneva from 26 to 28 July 1989. This was the first meeting on HIV/AIDS and human rights to be held by the United Nationsm, and its recommendations, addressed both to the Centre and to WHO, specify a number of areas in which work should be furthered. The results of this consultation were discussed and endorsed by the Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its meeting held from 7 August to 1 September 1989, when that body appointed a special rapporteur on this topic.

B. Activities carried out individually by organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system

48. The following paragraphs are based on contributions from the organizations which are carrying out the activities.

49. The Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat continued to emphasize AIDS prevention and control activities in all relevant aspects of its work programme in 1989, particularly on the social and economic impact of the epidemic in developing countries. In December 1989, the Population Division Task Force of the Department, established to study the demographic implications if the pandemic, convened in collaboration with WHO a Workshop on Modelling the Demographic Impact of the AIDS Epidemic in Pattern II countries. The workshop's aim was to ensure that models of the AIDS pandemic and its demographic impact provided the information necessary for appropriate health policy formulation and implementation.

50. The Department has developed a methodology to help identify potential implications that AIDS could have on individual socio-economic sectors in specific countries. The approach suggested in the report on the methodology was endorsed by the United Nations Steering Committee and by the Inter-Agency Advisory Group on AIDS. Accordingly, the Department developed a project proposal, which will be carried out in late 1990 in collaboration with WHO, UNDP, the regional commissions and other interested organizations and agencies.

51. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is financing projects which integrate AIDS-related activities into maternal and child health care programmes or information/education/communication programmes, such as those in Benin, Cameroon and Liberia. Final drafts of separate guidelines on various aspects of that integration have been prepared and will be published in 1990.

52. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) carried out a situation analysis aimed at assessing needs for strengthening blood-safety procedures at hospitals which received and treated Palestine refugees, with special attention being accorded to NGO hospitals in the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank. Measures were undertaken to keep all health staff up-to-date on AIDS-related problems through discussions and distribution of related publications, stressing the importance of sterilization and disinfection procedures, and through the improvement of safety measures for burning disposable syringes and needles. UNRWA added HIV infection to tne list of weekly infectious

disease returns to ensure prompt reporting and active surveillance. Close contact was maintained with the public health authorities of host governments to ensure effective exchange of information and the co-ordination of control measures.

53. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the Instituto Internazionale di Studi a Informazioni Sanitaria (ISIS), a WHO collaborating centre, launched jointly a drug abuse prevention education programme aimed at 14 to 18 year old students in Italian secondary schools. Called STOP DROGA, the programme which contains an AIDS component has been developed bearing in mind target 3 adopted by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Vienna, June 1987 which aims, inter alia, to provide young people with precise information on drugs in order to prevent drug abuse as a result of ignorance. Depending on the availability of resources, the two institutions will attempt to expand the programme in Italy during 1990-1991, following which efforts will be made to transplant it in an appropriate manner to other countries, including Eastern European and developing countries.

54. The United Nations University (UNU) has collaborated with WHO in adapting rapid assessment procedures (RAP) for field studies of social patterns associated with AIDS. UNU hopes to publish "RAP for AIDS" and distribute it widely with support from WHO. A workshop on the use of RAP methodology for AIDS research has been planned for July 1990 in Nairobi.

55. To mark World AIDS Day 1989, the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat co-sponsored, in collaboration with WHO and the United Nations International School, a one-day symposium focusing on AIDS and youth, which included presentations by panelists, a play about AIDS prevention, films and video tapes, as well as a panel display on AIDS in the General Assembly public lobby, provided by UNICEF and WHO. The Department is planning a similar one-day event for 1990 with the theme "Women and AIDS". Discussion is under way with WHO for the production of an educational video and accompanying teaching guide on AIDS targeted primarily to high schools.

56. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the United Nations Medical Service also carried out activities on the control and prevention of AIDS.

57. Although the WHO/UNDP Alliance to Combat AIDS was officially proclaimed on 29 March 1988, on an informal basis collaboration between WHO and UNDP field offices had begun at an earlier stage in several countries. Approximately 18 months after proclamation of the Alliance, a comprehensive questionnaire was sent in October 1989 to all UNDP field offices, not only to obtain an assessment on a country-by-country basis of the effectiveness of the Alliance and information about ongoing or planned HIV/AIDS-related activities in country programmes, but also to obtain an analysis of the potential impact of HIV on social and economic development. Responses to those questionnaires have been received from almost all field offices and, while they have, in general, reported that the Alliance has been an effective instrument in combating HIV/AIDS, there have been variations in the degree to which UNDP has been involved in ensuring the integration of national AIDS plans into overall development policies and priorities at the country level, in

resource mobilization, in supporting programme development and delivery, and in minimizing the impact of HIV/AIDS on social and economic development.

58. In an increasing number of countries, country programmes have included HIV/AIDS components as either self-standing UNDP projects or as a component of ongoing UNDP health or education programmes. In many others, according to responses to the questionnaire, there are ongoing or planned country indicative planning figure (IPF) inputs to short- and medium-term plans for national HIV/AIDS control. According to information from WHO, based on pledges by UNDP at the country level during the course of in-country resource mobilization meetings, during the period 1987-1989, UNDP has committed over $US 10.8 million either through the WHO Trust Fund for the Global Programme on AIDS or directly to some 28 countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. In addition, responses to the questionnaire indicated that an amount of approximately $US 5.3 million in national IPFs for projects or project components dealing with HIV/AIDS had been earmarked or already committed.

59. At the inter-country level, the Regional Bureaux for Africa, for Asia and the Pacific and for Arab States and European Programmes have provided $US 620,000, $US 1,400,000 and $US 400,000, respectively, through the Global Programme on AIDS. That money is being utilized to assist Governments in the respective regions to develop and initiate national short- and medium-term plans. The UNDP Global Programme has provided $US 300,000 to the Global Programme on AIDS for unearmarked support and $US 700,000 to the Global Programme on AIDS for support to initiate the Global Blood Safety Initiative. In addition, as foreseen in the Alliance, a reimbursable global IPF project of $US 2 million was approved by the Governing Council in February 1988 for a facility to bridge the time between firm pledges for external support and the actual receipt of funds as pledged. That facility has been utilized by the Global Programme on AIDS in nine countries for a total of $US 1,987,800.

60. It is the view of the Administrator that, while UNDP has made a contribution to the struggle against HIV/AIDS, much more should be done and advantage should be taken of every opportunity to assist Governments and, through them, institutions, organizations and individuals in meeting this challenge.

61. In March 1989, UNESCO established the AIDS School Education Resource Centre (ASERC) for the collection, analysis, exchange and dissemination of information and documentation among UNESCO member States and their partners in the field of education for AIDS prevention. The Centre is being connected to the UNESCO central computer system.

62. The Sector for Culture and Communication of UNESCO will support the global AIDS strategy in two ways: (a) through research of the cultural environment in which prevention campaigns are being launched; and (b) by developing appropriate information and communication campaigns for various target groups. The aims of the first are to understand the cultural values and symbols of the societies in which prevention activities are planned, so that the messages designed for information campaign purposes may succeed. The focus of the second is on developing information-communication methods which draw on successful campaign experiences in

the past, but which also take into account different cultural and social contexts. In recent years, that was developed mostly within the communications programme for prevention against drug abuse, but is likely to be expanded in the future to cover the specific dimensions of AIDS.

63. At the request of the Director-General of UNESCO, a working group entitled "Man versus the virus" has been established by the European Academy of Science, Arts and Letters and the UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology for Europe and North America (ROSTE). The group works in the field of human retrovirus and will undertake action towards the establishment of a network of European and North American laboratories co-operating in research in this field.

64. By early 1990, UNICEF had programme support in the AIDS field in all developing countries seriously affected by AIDS, particularly in Africa and the Caribbean, and in close collaboration with the WHO Global Programme on AIDS. UNICEF funds are provided for governmental and non-governmental AIDS activities which are consistent with the global AIDS strategy, and with the priorities of national AIDS programmes.

65. To prevent sexual transmission of the HIV, UNICEF supports AIDS prevention education for adults; for example, seminars for journalists in the United Republic of Tanzania, training for political leaders in Uganda on protecting young girls from infection, and training of health workers, community and church leaders in AIDS awareness in Kenya through a national women's organization and the Christian Health Association. In Zaire, UNICEF trained regional information, education and communication specialists, provided relevant materials and translated instructional materials into four national languages. UNICEF also supports AIDS-prevention education through the school systems in several countries, recognizing that school-based education is a key element in reaching the critical age group, adolescents; it also supports education for high-risk out-of-school youth, including rural youth and urban street children.

66. UNICEF has supported the prevention of transmission of HIV (hepatitis, and other infections) through contaminated skin-piercing equipment, by taking major steps to ensure the safety of government immunization programmes and maternal and child health services, by providing equipment, sterilizers, training in infection control and, where appropriate, disposable needles and syringes.

67. UNICEF is also supporting efforts to aid women and children who are HIV-infected or suffering from AIDS-related illnesses - especially the growing number of AIDS orphans. Examples include support of an organization in Uganda to assist non-governmental organizations in caring for AIDS orphans; support for an international conference, which will design ways to meet the AIDS prevention and social needs of street children; in Zaire, UNICEF supports a national women's group, which provides home care, psychological support and education for families with AIDS patients; and in the Congo, UNICEF funds a pilot centre for counselling seropositive women.

68. The United Nations Office at Vienna implemented a project to identify the interrelationships between AIDS and the status of women. The results of that

project were summarized in a report of the Secretary-General entitled "Effects of AIDS on the advancement of women" (E/CN.6/1989/6/Add.1). In considering the report at its thirty-third session, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted a draft decision on "Activities to assist women in the fight against the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome pandemic", f/ which was endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in decision 1989/127.

69. The United Nations Office at Vienna is considering a planned pilot survey on the legal environment of the availability of sterile needles and syringes in 12 countries. The project will analyse the legal control and distribution practices, in order to understand how they influence the availability of sterile needles and syringes which, in turn, may affect self-injecting drug use and transmission of HIV. The United Nations Office at Vienna programme for the utilization of community resources for the prevention and reduction of drug abuse, implemented on a regional basis, has as one of its objectives the prevention of HIV infection associated with drug abuse. Three regional workshops, organized in Bolivia, Kenya and Spain, included measures to achieve that objective.

70. The topic of AIDS and youth, as well as the activities of the United Nations Office at Vienna working group on AIDS, have been widely publicized and discussed in several meetings of the Vienna Non-Governmental Organization Committee on Youth. The report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on "Policies and programmes involving young people: participation, development, peace" (A/44/387), portrayed AIDS as a major youth concern.

71. A project for field work for mobilizing social welfare, voluntary, community and other groups in the campaign against AIDS in Africa is planned to be jointly implemented in 1990 by the WHO Regional Office for Africa and the United Nations Office at Vienna.

72. The Twenty-seventh Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (October 1989) agreed to the inclusion of the subject "AIDS in civil aviation" in the technical work programme for the next triennium. At the regional aviation medicine seminar held in Paris from 13 to 17 November 1989, a full day was devoted to "AIDS in relation to flight safety". The possible development of a policy concerning AIDS and HIV seropositive subjects was discussed.

73. The Assembly of the International Maritime Organization at its sixteenth session held in October 1989, adopted a resolution entitled "Undesirability of HIV screening of crews and passengers of ships" (resolution A.639(16)), in which the Assembly, inter alia, urged member States which had introduced screening to reconsider the relevant measures with a view to repealing them.

74. In 1989, UNHCR was represented at two international meetings that addressed, inter alia, the issues of AIDS and refugee movements: the Commonwealth Meeting on AIDS and Human Movement, held in London in May 1989; and, in September 1989, the Meeting on Refugees and AIDS, organized in Washington, D.C. by the Refugee Policy Group.

75. An informal working group on AIDS was constituted within UNHCR headquarters to undertake the elaboration and updating of policy on refugees and HIV, and to monitor the protection of refugees with HIV.

76. Jointly with the International Organization for Migration, UNHCR drafted guidelines on the management of HIV among Indochinese refugees in camps in Thailand, with emphasis on the confidentiality of screening results.

77. In 1989, FAO undertook two case studies in the United Republic of Tanzania and Rwanda on the potential impact of AIDS on food production and consumption through its effect on household labour supply and incomes. The concern of FAO was that AIDS could further restrict the ability of certain vulnerable groups to grow or buy sufficient food to meet their nutritional requirements. FAO is concerned by the human and policy implications of those studies. They clearly show the risk of deterioration in household nutrition from the loss of one or more adult members, particularly where women already have a heavy workload, and are less able to divert labour from cash-crop production. The impact on children could be particularly severe. Labour-intensive cash-crop production may be reduced in order to concentrate on fewer, less time-demanding food crops, with consequent losses in export earnings for the country, and deterioration in both the quantity and the quality of food consumed. Those findings should be followed up and consideration should be given as to how best the international community could support the countries facing that situation. Such support could include assistance to strengthen national capabilities in AIDS-related policy analysis, to develop and introduce labour-saving technologies, and to prepare appropriate nutrition interventions.

Notes

a/ WHO AIDS Series No. 2 (Geneva, 1989).

b/ WHO AIDS Series No. 4 (Geneva, 1989).

c/ WHO AIDS Series No. 5 (Geneva, 1989).

d/ WHO AIDS Series No. 6 (Geneva, 1990).

e/ WHO AIDS Series No. 7 (Geneva, 1990).

f/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 9 (E/1989/27/Rev.1), chap. I.B, para. 2, draft decision I.

UNITED NATIONS

A E

General Assembly

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/257
E/1990/61
7 May 1990
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC/ENGLISH/FRENCH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fifth session
Item 12 of the preliminary list*
REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Second regular session of 1990
REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

Preparations for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 44/237 of 22 December 1989 proclaiming the period 1991-2000 the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa. The present report is submitted in accordance with paragraph 4 of the resolution, which "requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the relevant subregional and regional economic groupings in Africa and the United Nations bodies concerned, to undertake the necessary preparations for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and to submit, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on those preparations to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session".

In its resolution 44/237, the General Assembly assigned specific responsibilities to the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to prepare a framework of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and to provide technical assistance to individual countries, at their request, for the preparation of national programmes and to intergovernmental organizations on the preparation of their subregional programmes for the Decade. The technical assistance to countries and subregional

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* A/45/50.

organizations is to be extended through provision of local and international experts. ECA and UNIDO were equally entrusted with responsibility for preparing a zero draft of the programme for the Decade and for organizing two meetings of the Working Group of Governmental Experts to review and finalize the draft programme.

A timetable of activities to be undertaken by the secretariats of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), ECA and UNIDO, the Working Group of Governmental Experts and Member States, from the proclamation of the Decade in the second half of 1989 to the submission and adoption of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa by the tenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry in the second quarter of 1991, was established in both resolution 2 (IX) of the ninth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry and the report of the Secretary-General (A/44/812).

With a view to accelerating the preparations of the programme of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, UNIDO has, in January and February 1990, invited nominations from each subregion for the composition of the Working Group of Governmental Experts, which should comprise three countries in each of the five subregions of North Africa, West Africa, Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa and whose main responsibility is to review and finalize both the framework for the preparation of national and subregional programmes and the zero draft of the programme for the Decade. By 30 March 1990, Central Africa, Eastern Africa and West Africa had submitted their nominations of countries to be members of the Working Group, while the remaining two subregions were being urged to do the same. Countries nominated to the Working Group were invited to designate their representative experts.

With regard to the preparation of a framework for the programme of the Decade, the Joint Committee of the OAU, ECA and UNIDO secretariats on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa considered and finalized, during its tenth meeting, held at Addis Ababa from 22 to 27 March 1990, a draft framework for the preparation of national and subregional programmes.

The framework for the preparation of national and subregional programmes covers the following major areas:

(a) Concepts and basic principles for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa. In this area emphasis is placed on self-reliance and self-sustainment at national and subregional levels through an increasing use of local factor inputs, the promotion of internal engines of growth, the intensification of subregional and regional co-operation and integration schemes in the core and strategic industries, a greater role for indigenous entrepreneurs, both public and private, and so on;

(b) Outline of national and subregional programmes for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa. African Governments and subregional organizations are advised to formulate appropriate policies and strategies for industrial development, to choose specific and impact-oriented programmes, and to concentrate on a limited number of concrete programmes and projects in order to be effective;

(c) Guidelines for national programmes. Here, Governments are advised to conduct a thoughtful analysis of their industrial sector to assess its weakness and potentials; to formulate national programmes based on the use of domestic factor inputs, increasing agro-industrial linkages and indigenous entrepreneurship; and to establish a national consultative mechanism involving all relevant government ministries, all agents of production, development and distribution, public and private. Governments are equally urged to look more and more inward to mobilize resources and other major factor inputs for financing the programme of the Second Decade;

(d) Guidelines for subregional programmes. Subregional programmes should aim at implementing core- and resource-based projects and strengthening existing mechanisms or establishing new mechanisms for ensuring effective follow-up and monitoring of those projects. The preparation process of the subregional programmes should follow the same approach as in the case of national programmes;

(e) Promotional programmes. During the First Industrial Development Decade for Africa promotional activities were directed largely towards government officials and policy makers. During the Second Decade, there should be a shift from the policy-making level to operating levels of entrepreneurs, investors, managers, technicians, planners and so on at the project and enterprise levels;

(f) Co-ordination and monitoring. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms must be created in order to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the programme of the Second Decade. At the national level, the composition of a high-level committee made up of the relevant ministries and representatives of the private sector is proposed. Similar mechanisms should be considered at the subregional and regional levels.

In order to accelerate the preparation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, UNIDO has, on behalf of the three secretariats, informed all African countries of the availability of technical assistance in UNIDO and ECA for the preparation of their respective programmes. As at 10 April 1990, 40 countries had indicated to UNIDO their interest and needs. As a follow-up, ECA has requested each country to nominate a local expert who should work together with the international experts provided by UNIDO to assist the Government in the preparation of the national programme.

Furthermore, the tenth meeting of the Joint Committee of the OAU, ECA and UNIDO secretariats on the implementation of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, held at Addis Ababa from 22 to 27 March 1990, reviewed and finalized the terms of reference prepared by ECA for local and international experts to assist member countries and subregional organizations in the preparation of their respective programmes. It was noted that the terms of reference of international experts to be provided by UNIDO would be based on the specific requests received from the countries.

The meeting has also drawn up an implementation plan for the activities to be undertaken during the remainder of 1990.

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	BACKGROUND	1 - 2	5
II.	ACTIONS TAKEN AND PROGRESS MADE IN THE PREPARATION OF A PROGRAMME FOR THE SECOND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DECADE FOR AFRICA	3 - 15	6
	A. Establishment of the Working Group of Governmental Experts	3 - 4	6
	B. Preparation of the framework for the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa	5 - 12	6
	1. Concepts and basic principles of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa	7	7
	2. Outline of national and subregional programmes for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa	8	7
	3. Guidelines for national programmes	9	7
	4. Guidelines for subregional programmes	10	8
	5. Promotional programmes	11	9
	6. Co-ordination and monitoring	12	9
	C. Preparation of terms of reference for local and international experts for the preparation of programmes of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa	13 - 14	10
	D. Implementation plan for activities to be undertaken during 1990	15	10

I. BACKGROUND

1. In its resolution 44/237 of 22 December 1989, the General Assembly endorsed the proposals of the Secretary-General in which ECA and UNIDO were given specific responsibilities with respect to the preparation of a framework of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa. In addition, ECA and UNIDO were requested to provide technical assistance to individual countries, at their request, for the preparation of national programmes and to intergovernmental organizations on the preparation of their subregional programmes for the Decade. Both secretariats should also prepare a zero draft of the programme and organize two meetings of the Working Group of Governmental Experts to consider it. ECA is responsible for providing local experts to Governments and international experts to intergovernmental organizations, as well as for convening the two expert meetings. UNIDO is entrusted with responsibility for providing international experts to individual countries. In this connection, ECA and OAU have estimated resource requirements at $1,345,800. Of this amount UNIDO has earmarked $883,900 out of the total $8.6 million approved for the Decade programme for the biennium 1990-1991. The balance of $462,700 provided by the United Nations will be disbursed by ECA.

2. The timetable for the preparation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa has been established in both resolution 2 (IX) of the ninth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI.9) and the report of the Secretary-General (A/44/812) as follows:

(a) Second half of 1989: Proclamation of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa by the General Assembly and preparation of a framework by the secretariats of OAU, ECA and UNIDO, in consultation with the Working Group of Governmental Experts, to assist Member States in the elaboration of their programmes for the second decade;

(b) First half of 1990: Preparation by African Governments, with the assistance, upon request, of the secretariats of OAU, ECA and UNIDO, of national programmes for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, taking into account the recommendations contained in the report of the independent experts on the mid-term evaluation of the Decade, the joint comments of the secretariats of OAU, ECA and UNIDO on that report and existing subregional industrial co-operation programmes. Similar assistance could be provided upon request to subregional organizations in the preparation of their programmes for the Second Decade;

(c) Third quarter of 1990: Preparation by the secretariats, in consultation with African countries and relevant African and United Nations organizations, of a zero draft of the programme for the Second Decade;

(d) Fourth quarter of 1990: Organization of a first meeting of the Working Group of Governmental Experts to review the zero draft of the programme for the Second Decade;

(e) First quarter of 1991: Organization of a second meeting of the Working Group of Governmental Experts for the finalization of the draft programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa;

(f) Second quarter of 1991: Tenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry and the preceding meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Whole on Industrialization in Africa with the main objective of considering and adopting the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa.

II. ACTIONS TAKEN AND PROGRESS MADE IN THE PREPARATION OF A PROGRAMME FOR THE SECOND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DECADE FOR AFRICA

(a) Establishment of the Working Group of Governmental Experts

3. In a letter dated January 1990 and a reminder sent in February, UNIDO invited nominations from each subregion through the members of the Bureau of the ninth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry for the composition of the Working Group of Governmental Experts established by the ninth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry in paragraph 8 of its resolution 2 (IX). The Working Group should be composed of three countries in each of the five subregions of North Africa, West Africa, Central Africa, Eastern Africa and Southern Africa. The main responsibility of the Working Group is to review and finalize both the framework for the preparation of national and subregional programmes and the zero draft of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa.

4. By 30 March 1990, Central Africa, Eastern Africa and West Africa had submitted their nominations of countries to be members of the Working Group. Southern Africa and North Africa were contacted by UNIDO urging them to submit their respective representative countries. At the same time, countries nominated as members of the Working Group were invited to designate their representative experts.

(b) Preparation of the framework for the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa

5. At its tenth meeting, held at Addis Ababa from 22 to 27 March 1990, the Joint Committee of the OAU, ECA and UNIDO secretariats on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa considered and finalized the draft framework with a view to assisting African countries and subregional organizations in the formulation of their respective programmes for the Decade. In order to accelerate the preparatory process, the meeting recommended that the draft framework should be circulated to all African Governments and organizations in that form in order to enable them to start their preparations. The final version would be circulated later after revision based on the comments of the members of the Working Group of Governmental Experts.

6. The framework covers the following areas:

(a) Concepts and basic principles of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa;

(b) Outline of the national and subregional programmes for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa;

(c) Guidelines for national programmes;

(d) Guidelines for subregional programmes;

(e) Promotional programmes;

(f) Co-ordination and monitoring.

1. Concepts and basic principles of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa

7. The fundamental twin objectives of the Decade are self-reliance and self-sustainment at the national and regional levels. This has to be achieved mainly through an increasing use of local factor inputs, the promotion of internal engines of growth, the institutionalization and intensification of co-operation and integration schemes among African countries, particularly in the core and strategic industries, with the full involvement of indigenous entrepreneurs, both public and private. Emphasis should be placed on the building up of domestic and regional production structures through enlarged markets, multinational core projects and the strengthening of an interdependent physical and human infrastructure in critical areas.

2. Outline of national and subregional programmes for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa

8. In the preparation of national and subregional programmes, Governments and subregional organizations are advised to formulate appropriate policies and strategies for industrial development, to choose specific and selective programmes and to concentrate on a limited number of concrete programmes and projects in order to be effective. Four main indicative thrust areas have been proposed to countries and subregions in the preparation of their respective programmes for the Decade:

(a) Programmes of consolidation;

(b) Programmes of industrial expansion and new investments;

(c) Support programmes;

(d) Special programmes for least developed countries.

3. Guidelines for national programmes

9. The following sequential actions are proposed:

(a) Analysis of the industrial sector. This analysis should consider the structure and pattern of the industrial sector and subsectoral survey of performance, capacity utilization, industrial exports and imports, level of industrial investment, availability of skills, level of entrepreneurial development, costs of domestic industrial production, degree and use of domestic factor inputs, degree of dependence on imported inputs, review of the regulatory framework and public policies affecting industrialization, problems and constraints, potentials and priorities, and so on;

(b) Formulation of national programmes. The national programmes should include objectives, policies and implementation strategies concerning the use of domestic factor inputs, agro-industrial linkages, the promotion of indigenous entrepreneurship, the development of skills and manpower, and the provision of institutional and physical infrastructure. It should also provide a selection of priority investment projects;

(c) Preparation of national programmes for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa. The Second Decade is a multidisciplinary exercise and as such it is important to establish a consultative mechanism - a national co-ordinating committee - involving all relevant government agencies and ministries of industry, finance, planning, agriculture, national resources, energy, transport, education, trade and commerce as well as public and private enterprises, chambers of industry and commerce, manufacturers' associations, development banks and financial institutions, and so on. Governments may consider setting up subsectoral committees under the overall guidance and supervision of the national co-ordinating committee for the Decade;

(d) Financing and other major factor inputs. An estimation of the cost of the national programme for the Second Decade is a necessary tool in the programming and implementation process in order to launch resource mobilization, both local and external. Countries would have to mobilize resources from (i) domestic sources (mainly budget allocations, domestic savings, surplus of public enterprises, private domestic investments, loans from development and commercial banks); and (ii) external sources (foreign loans, foreign investment, donor assistance, international technical assistance and so on). The resource mobilization exercise should also deal with the availability and supply of domestic raw materials, indigenous skills available and other local factor inputs.

4. Guidelines for subregional programmes

10. The subregional programmes should aim at implementing engineering core- and resource-based projects retained in the revised subregional programmes and at strengthening existing mechanisms or establishing new mechanisms for ensuring effective follow-up and monitoring of programme implementation. As in the case of country programmes, the preparation process of the subregional programmes should include:

(a) The evaluation of subregional industrial co-operation and identification of subregional priority. Review of the legal framework and policies for industrial

co-operation, with reference to mechanisms of co-operation, their effectiveness, constraints, potential, provision of industrial support services, enumeration of adequate trade policies and so on;

(b) The preparation of a subregional industrial development programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa. Definition of policies, objectives and strategies; selection of priority investment programmes (iron and steel industries, engineering industries, agricultural machinery and equipment industries, energy equipment, fertilizers, basic chemical industries, pharmaceutical, food-processing industries and so on), costing of the programme, including the provision of an investment portfolio;

(c) The modalities for formulation and implementation. The formulation and the implementation of subregional programmes would require the establishment at the subregional level of an industrial promotion co-ordinating committee with the mandate of overseeing the implementation of all industrial programmes in the subregion. Where necessary, subsectoral promotion committees may be established. Those committees should include representatives of Governments, public and private enterprises from each country participating in the project, chambers of industry and commerce, national and regional financial institutions, and so on. Modalities for implementation should identify "host countries" for subregional projects with a view to placing responsibility and ensuring speedier follow-up;

(d) The financing and other major factor inputs. Subregional co-operation is essential for the provision of major factor inputs as well as financing. Financing of subregional programmes and mobilization of other major factor inputs should therefore come mainly through strengthened subregional financial and banking institutions, co-operation between central banks, cross-equity participation by Governments, tax and tariff relief measures, encouraging joint ventures and regional trade in raw materials and other development factors, and so on.

5. Promotional programmes

11. During the First Industrial Development Decade for Africa promotional activities were directed largely towards government officials and policy-makers. The promotional activities to be undertaken for the Second Decade have to have a qualitatively different dimension and a new direction and focus. They should be action-oriented and geared to stimulate the implementation of the programme of the Decade. While the participation of key government officials will still be needed, the action-oriented thrust demands that the level of participation should now shift to operating levels: entrepreneurs, investors, managers, technicians, planners and others at the project and enterprise levels, both from the public and private sectors.

6. Co-ordination and monitoring

12. A monitoring and evaluation mechanism must be created to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the programme of the Second Decade. At the national

level, the composition of a high-level committee made up of the relevant ministries and representatives of the private sector is proposed. Similar mechanisms should be considered at the subregional and regional levels.

C. Preparation of terms of reference for local and international experts for the preparation of programmes of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa

13. On behalf of the three secretariats, UNIDO has informed all African countries of the availability of technical assistance in UNIDO and ECA for the preparation of their respective programmes, requesting them to specify the areas where such assistance is needed. As at 10 April 1990, 37 countries had indicated to UNIDO their interest and needs. As a follow-up, ECA has requested each country to nominate a local expert who should work together with the international experts provided by UNIDO to assist the Government in the preparation of its national programme.

14. At its tenth meeting, the Joint Committee of the OAU, ECA and UNIDO secretariats on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa reviewed the terms of reference prepared by ECA for local and international experts to assist countries and subregional organizations in the preparation of their respective programmes for the Second Decade. The meeting stressed the need for the local experts to work in close co-operation with the international experts to be provided by UNIDO. The identification of local and international experts and their recruitment are under way.

D. Implementation plan for activities to be undertaken during 1990

15. The tenth meeting of the Joint Committee also drew up an implementation plan of the activities to be undertaken during the remainder of 1990, on the basis of the timetable established in resolution 2 (IX) of the ninth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry for the preparation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa. It has agreed on the following timetable:

April 1990: (a) Translation and dispatch of the draft framework document to the Working Group of Governmental Experts, Governments and subregional organizations;

(b) Completion of constitution of the Working Group;

(c) Identification of consultants and experts.

May: (a) Recruitment of national experts;

(b) Receipt of responses from 15 members of the Working Group;

(c) Preparation of national and subregional programmes by Governments and subregional organizations;

(d) Missions by field experts and consultants where required.

June: (a) Finalization of the framework, its translation and dispatch to all member States, subregional organizations and experts;

(b) Continuation of preparation of national and subregional programmes by Governments and organizations.

July: Continuation of preparation of national and subregional programmes by Governments and organizations.

August: Continuation of preparation of national and subregional programmes by Governments and organizations.

September: Submission by Member States of their respective programmes for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa.

October: (a) Submission by subregional organizations of their programmes for the Second Decade; continuation of submissions by Member States;

(b) Consultations among the secretariats to

(i) Review the progress and plan for future activities;

(ii) Agree on the outline of the zero draft of the programme for the Second Decade;

(c) Preparation of the preliminary text of the zero draft of the programme for the Second Decade.

November: (a) Meeting of the secretariats to consider the zero draft of the programme for the Second Decade;

(b) Translation of the zero draft;

(c) Dispatch of invitations to the first meeting of the Working Group.

December: (a) First meeting of the Working Group;

(b) Consultation among the three secretariats to review progress and plan future activities.

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UNITED
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General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/258
S/21276
27 April 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fifth session
Items 23, 35 and 77 of the
preliminary list*
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS
OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 27 April 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am instructed by the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which has the powers and responsibilities of the Provisional Government of Palestine, to bring the following to your immediate attention:

On Thursday, 26 April 1990, the first day of Eid El-Fitr Al Mubarak, the occupied Palestinian territory witnessed one of its bloodiest days as the Israeli army opened fire at Palestinian civilians, resulting in the killing of five persons and the wounding of hundreds more. The most criminal acts by the army took place in Jabalya refugee camp (Gaza) and Kabbatia (West Bank).

I also have to draw your attention to the fact that for the first time ever, all Christian churches and Holy places in the Holy Land are effectively closed as of 9:00 a.m. (Palestine time) today until tomorrow in protest to the illegal occupation by Jewish settlers of St. John's Hospice in the heart of the Christian quarter of Jerusalem.

This dangerous and deteriorating situation in the occupied Palestinian territory requires immediate actions by the international community, and especially the United Nations.

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* A/45/50.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 23, 35 and 77 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Nasser AL-KIDWA
Alternate Permanent Observer
of Palestine to the United Nations
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/259
S/21279
30 April 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fifth session
Item 70 of the preliminary list*
STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN REGION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 30 April 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith the text of the resolution adopted by the 83rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference, which took place at Nicosia from 2 to 7 April 1990 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 70 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Cyprus to the United Nations

* A/45/50.

ANNEX

Resolution on the promotion of peace and security in the Mediterranean region in the light of the developments in Europe and the new spirit prevailing internationally, adopted by the 83rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held at Nicosia from 2 to 7 April 1990

The 83rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Convinced that security in the Mediterranean region is inextricably linked with the security of the whole of Europe and with international peace and security,

Welcoming the historic developments taking place in Europe in the direction of détente, disarmament, the promotion of human rights and democratic principles and the enhancement of co-operation between European countries in all fields,

Recognizing that these developments constitute an important contribution to building a Common European Home and mark the beginning of a new era in European and world affairs,

Expressing satisfaction at the positive developments taking place world wide, particularly the dialogue between the United States of America and the Soviet Union, which has strengthened international co-operation and enhanced prospects for resolving issues which threaten world peace and the freedom of peoples,

Deeply concerned that, despite the new international climate, certain States still undertake actions that violate the sovereignty and independence of other States and the right of peoples to decide freely upon their future,

Recalling the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), signed at Helsinki on 1 August 1975, and the Concluding Documents of the Madrid and Vienna Follow-up Meetings, particularly the chapters concerning the Mediterranean region,

Underlining the substantive contribution of the neutral and non-aligned countries of Europe to the CSCE process,

Recalling the Document of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security-building Measures and Disarmament in Europe,

Reaffirming the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly on the strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, as well as article 39 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,

Recalling the declarations concerning the Mediterranean region adopted by the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the non-aligned countries in 1984 and 1987, and by the

Foreign Affairs Ministers of the CSCE countries in 1990, as well as the declarations of the Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community, the resolutions of the Conference of the Union of African Parliaments, held at Cairo in March 1990, and the declaration of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, at Kuala Lumpur (1989),

Recalling the Concluding Resolutions of the VIth Inter-Parliamentary Conference on European Co-operation and Security, particularly with regard to questions relating to security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region,

Convinced that developments in Europe have enhanced prospects for closer Euro-Mediterranean collaboration, yet aware that such collaboration can only flourish if a just and lasting solution is found to the problems facing the Mediterranean region,

Reaffirming the need for a just and peaceful settlement of persistent problems in the region in accordance with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations,

Deeply concerned of the existence of hotbeds of tension, occupation and aggression in the Mediterranean region, and underlining the need to turn the Mediterranean basin into an area of peace and co-operation in the future,

Reaffirming that the right to emigrate implies the right to choose one's destination, but that these two rights should not be exercised to the detriment of the rights of another people in its homeland,

Underlining that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East will contribute to the promotion of peace and security in the Mediterranean region,

1. Urges all Parliaments and Governments to strive to reinforce the new international climate by taking measures to promote peace and security, respect of human rights and democratic principles;

2. Calls upon all States to adhere strictly to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the universally accepted principles of international law and to avoid the threat or use of force against other States;

3. Also calls upon the Parliaments and Governments of European countries to continue to foster the process of dialogue, multifaceted co-operation and confidence- and security-building measures, and urges European States to exert further efforts to ensure that positive developments in Europe, including disarmament measures, are adequately reflected in the Mediterranean;

4. Resolutely supports all efforts aimed at securing compliance with the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and the Madrid and Vienna Concluding Documents of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe;

5. Reaffirms the need to make the Mediterranean region one of peace, security and co-operation, free from conflict and confrontation, and strongly urges the States in the area that have not yet acceded to the treaties on the non-proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons to do so promptly;

6. Calls upon States outside the region to withdraw their fleets from the Mediterranean and their military presence from the region and to cease all military exercises;

7. Declares that Governments should take concrete steps to remove sources of tension in the Mediterranean region, created by the violation of borders, the interruption and endangering of safe passage of civilian, commercial and passenger shipping, foreign occupation and the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

8. Stresses that tension in the Mediterranean region cannot be eliminated without a just and lasting solution of the Middle East problem that would restore the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, in accordance with international law and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and would include Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem and South Lebanon;

9. Reaffirms in particular the resolutions of the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union calling for the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East, under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization - the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people - Israel and the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council;

10. Underscores and approves of the role played by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in creating conditions that are conducive to furthering the process of peace in the region;

11. Condemns the continuing colonization of the occupied Arab territories, which creates a deeply disturbing and dangerous situation exacerbated by Israel's organization of the massive emigration and illegal settlement of Jews in these plundered lands, including Jerusalem, in violation of all resolutions adopted by international bodies and the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

12. Calls upon Governments and Parliaments to use the peaceful means at their disposal to prevent the establishment of new settlements or the extension of existing settlements in the occupied Arab territories by Israel;

13. Expresses deep concern over the dangerous situation in Lebanon and the continued violence that has resulted in the loss of thousands of lives;

14. Calls for the full implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978) and 508 (1982) and 509 (1982) in order to

safeguard the territorial integrity of Lebanon, its security and its right to exercise sovereignty throughout its territory, and calls upon the aggressor immediately to cease its creeping annexation of territory in South Lebanon and to return the annexed lands, whose inhabitants have been evacuated, to their rightful owners;

15. Urges all parties concerned in Lebanon to refrain from engaging in hostilities and to strive to consolidate the legitimate power, reaffirms that the settlement of the Lebanese crisis must be based on Lebanon's sovereignty over all of its national territory, the unity of its territory and its freedom, as defined by the Teef Agreement, and notes that this is the only means of initiating a process leading to the settlement of the Lebanese crisis;

16. Calls for the release of all hostages held in Lebanon, particularly the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) workers who have been in captivity for six months, so that the ICRC can pursue its humanitarian work while enjoying the respect it needs to operate;

17. Expresses deep concern at the situation in Cyprus which has significant implications for peace and security in the region, condemns the continued forced division of the island, the presence of occupation troops and settlers and the violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of the Republic of Cyprus, and calls for the immediate withdrawal of all Turkish troops from the island in line with United Nations resolutions;

18. Resolutely supports a just and lasting settlement of the Cyprus problem in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, in particular Security Council resolutions 541 (1983), 550 (1984), 649 (1990) and the high-level agreements of 1977 and 1979, which form the basis for satisfying the interests and concerns of both communities on the island;

19. Calls upon Governments and Parliaments to use the means at their disposal, urgently to promote a solution to the problem in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations on Cyprus;

20. Recommends that the Inter-Parliamentary Council establish a committee to monitor the situation closely and report to the relevant bodies of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) on developments in Cyprus;

21. Condemns the use of armed force in the settlement of international conflicts in the area;

22. Reaffirms the importance of intensifying and constantly fostering contacts and co-operation among Mediterranean States in various fields, with a view to furthering the establishment of peace and security in the region;

23. Underlines the importance of multi-faceted co-operation among Mediterranean States, and calls upon them to strengthen co-operation in all

economic and social fields, particularly economic development and the environment, so as to further promote the development of the region;

24. Welcomes the creation of the Arab Maghreb Union at Marrakesh, Morocco, on 17 February 1989, and of the Arab Co-operative Council on 16 February 1989, and hails these events as a factor of peace, stability, security and development in the region;

25. Calls upon European countries to ensure that in the process of expanding European economic co-operation, due attention is paid to the interests of non-European Mediterranean countries, and also calls upon all States concerned to exert every effort to alleviate the heavy debt burden;

26. Recommends the convening of a conference of parliamentarians of all Mediterranean States under IPU auspices with the object of discussing measures addressing environmental priorities, such as the means to combat the deplorable pollution of the sea, and defining measures aimed at promoting peace and security in the region and closer co-operation in various fields so as to further the interests of the peoples in the area.